

JOHN W. COMBS.

FEBRUARY 23, 1889.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. LANE, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 2363.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2363) granting an increase of pension to John W. Combs, having had the same under consideration, adopt the Senate report thereon, which is as follows, and recommend the passage of the bill:

The claimant served as a private in Company D, Third Regiment West Virginia Volunteers. He was pensioned at the rate of \$2 per month from August 16, 1864, for rheumatism and piles. This pension was increased to \$6 per month from June 18, 1864, and to \$12 per month from March 23, 1887, which amount he is now receiving.

His application for further increase was rejected by the Pension Bureau on November 4, 1887, on the ground that there is "no increase of disability due to pensioned causes."

The claimant does not ask an increase of pension by reason of increased disability, but claims that he is entitled to a higher rating upon the evidence filed by him and the reports of the medical examining boards.

The evidence in support of his claim for an increase of pension is as follows:

Under date of July 21, 1887, Dr. M. T. Powell testified:

"Have known claimant only three or four years. * * * His diagnosis, chronic muscular rheumatism and piles (external and internal), also prolapsus ani. * * * Heart's action weak. * * * No passage of bowels unless he uses a syringe, producing an injection, on account of piles, which are continuous; worse at intervals. My first treatment was in May, 1885; his condition was bad; not able to perform manual labor. * * * I believed him totally disabled from performing manual labor, and had done nothing since September, 1884. * * * By examination to-day, July 21, 1887, I fully believe his physical condition is no better than in June, 1885."

On August 30, 1887, Dr. John F. Michael testified:

"Examined the case in March, 1886, and found him affected with internal and external piles, and prolapsus ani; have treated him since that date. * * * After the examination believed him wholly incapacitated from performing manual labor."

Dr. Sidney Mosher testified, September 7, 1887, that he—

"Made a personal examination of this case July 4, 1887, and diagnosed his case as a complication of rheumatism and piles, affecting the whole system—head, heart, spine, and kidneys, causing great relaxation of the muscles of the bowels, and wholly incapacitating him for manual labor."

On July 26, 1887, two of his neighbors, W. M. Grimes and Barnabas Ball, testified that—

"The claimant is wholly disabled from performing manual labor."

Under date of March 23, 1887, the medical examining board rate the claimant $\frac{1}{2}$, third-grade rating for piles, and $\frac{2}{3}$ for rheumatism, or two-thirds disabled.

The medical examining board which examined him on September 28, 1887, rate him as three-fourths disabled. The committee is of opinion that the testimony in this case clearly shows the claimant to be entitled to a higher rating. The bill is reported favorably, with the recommendation that it do pass.